subsidiary of IBP, has been suspended because of non-placement of order by oil companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government for resuming the production; and

(c) if not, the order position on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) IOCL, HPCL & BPCL floated the tenders for procurement of cylinders separately and during the finalization of tender, some of the tenderers had gone to various High Courts challenging the tender process. At present, whole tender process is *sub-judice* and final decision on the order quantity for procurement of LPG cylinders from M/s Balmer Lawrie would depend upon the final judgement of Delhi High Court.

Abolition of subsidies on kerosene and LPG

277. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are firm on resolve to abolish the administered pricing system for petroleum products by 1st April, 2002; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are contemplated to absorb subsidies on kerosene and LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subsidies on kerosene for public distribution system and the domestic LPG are contemplated to be met from the budget of the Government.

Oil pool deficit

278. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil pool deficit has increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy of Government to manage the oil pool account;